GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2696
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Pollution in Ganga
Verma Smt. Rekha Arun

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey of increasing pollution in the big rivers including Ganga and Yamuna through Pollution Control Research Institute;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations made by the Pollution Control Research Institute;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the rising pollution in the rivers; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated and spent under the Heads of Ganga and Yamuna Action Plan and other related Heads?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b) The Pollution Control Research Institute in Hardwar (Uttarakhand) has informed that it has not carried out any comprehensive study on increasing pollution in major rivers of the country, including Ganga and Yamuna.

(c) Proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated in towns is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/local bodies so that the untreated sewage is not discharged into rivers thereby polluting them. This Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) & NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programme, for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Various pollution abatement schemes taken-up under the programmes, inter-alia include interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation facilities, electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. The major steps taken to control water pollution include; Preparation of action plan for sewage management and restoration of water quality in aquatic resources by State Governments; installation of Online Effluent Monitoring System; action to comply with effluent standards by SPCBs / PCCs; installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units; issuance of directions for implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge; issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to industries and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to SPCBs/PCCs etc.
(d) The programmes of NRCP & NGRBA have covered polluted stretches of 43 rivers in 200 towns spread over 21 States, at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 12202.59 crore so far and an amount of Rs.5276.56 crore has been released to various State Governments for abatement of pollution in the rivers, including Rs. 2971.12 crores for rivers Ganga and Yamuna. Since 01.08.2014, Rs.1914.46 crore has further been released by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to the State Governments for pollution abatement of Ganga and Yamuna.

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